

FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY  
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, April 25, 2012.

Hon. RALPH M. HALL,  
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4257, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012, and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 4257 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 4257 and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision not to request a sequential referral of H.R. 4257. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, April 26, 2012.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,  
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 4257, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012.

As you know the staffs on our Committees have worked together to execute improvements to the legislation and I ask your assurances that the jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology be protected and kept in mind as the bill proceeds. I would ask for your continuing cooperation in addressing remaining issues to our mutual satisfaction.

I recognize and appreciate the desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will waive further consideration of this bill in Committee, notwithstanding any provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. This waiver, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Additionally, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology expressly reserves its

authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 4257, as well as any similar or related legislation.

I ask that a copy of this letter be placed in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on the legislation as you work towards H.R. 4257's enactment.

Sincerely,

RALPH M. HALL,  
Chairman, Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES  
ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2012*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4348, the Surface Transportation Extension Act, Part II. With this legislation, House Republicans are making all the wrong choices for Minnesota, and for the country.

House Republicans are choosing to bring another short-term extension of transportation policies to the floor instead of the two-year measure that passed the Senate with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 74–22. The Senate bill would save or create over two million jobs, including an estimated 28,100 jobs in Minnesota. This legislation has been introduced in the House, and I am an original cosponsor.

The Senate bill is not perfect, and I encourage my Senate colleagues to continue working with stakeholders—including tribal leaders, small businesses, and local governments—to strengthen this bipartisan legislation. But this compromise solution will put people to work right away and provide the certainty that transportation agencies and businesses need. For over a month, House Republican leaders have refused to allow a vote. It is completely unacceptable that Tea Party Republicans in the House continue to stand in the way of two million American jobs at a time when construction workers across the country are sitting on the bench, desperate to work.

In this bill, my Republican colleagues also chose to include language that will increase gas prices for Minnesota families. H.R. 4348 grants approval for construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would divert Canadian oil away from Minnesota refineries to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico. In a March 2011 Star Tribune op-ed, respected oil economist Philip Verleger explained this diversion would reduce oil supply in the Upper Midwest, raising costs for Minnesotans at the gas station and grocery store. In fact, Verleger said the country as a whole would end up paying nearly \$5 billion more for oil than we do today if the pipeline is built.

This legislation also includes language offered by Congressman REID RIBBLE (R-WI) to

limit the ability of local governments and citizens to participate in transportation projects in their communities. These changes to the National Environmental Policy Act would restrict local influence in transportation decisions that directly affect residents' health, safety, and quality of life.

I urge my colleagues to reject this broken bill, which guarantees more uncertainty for states, fewer jobs for workers, higher gas prices for drivers and less control for local governments. Instead, we should choose the bipartisan alternative and immediately pass the Senate legislation to put two million Americans back to work.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE  
ANNIVERSITY**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day occurred earlier this week.

For many years I have cosponsored a resolution, introduced in multiple sessions of Congress, affirming the United States Record on the Armenian genocide.

From 1915 to 1923, over 1,500,000 people were murdered by the Turkish Ottoman Empire because of their Christian faith and Armenian ethnicity. To this day, Turkey continues to deny that the mass murder, rape, forced marches and deportations that occurred actually constituted genocide.

Raphael Lemkin, the Jewish legal scholar who coined the word genocide and tirelessly advocated for international law defining it and preventing it, was driven largely by what happened to the Armenians. He, and others after him, recognized that there is power in accurately describing these events so that future horrors, like the Nazi-perpetuated Holocaust and genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur are prevented. Sadly, genocide and crimes against humanity are hardly relegated to the past—even today we see racially and ethnically motivated violence in Sudan's Nuba Mountains perpetrated by an internationally indicted war criminal—and the world does little.

This year's observance of the anniversary of the Armenian genocide is especially meaningful. In December 2011, the House of Representatives adopted H. Res 306, which I was pleased to cosponsor. The resolution calls on the Secretary of State to urge Turkey to end religious discrimination and return all Christian places of worship and religious artifacts to their rightful owners. Thousands of these sacred sites and artifacts were confiscated by the Ottoman Empire during and after the Armenian Genocide.

It is important that we take this time to remember the Armenian genocide, even though it occurred nearly a century ago. Only through such acts of remembrance can we hope to prevent future acts of genocide.